CLAIMS

1. A method for treating or preventing the development of a congenital heart disease in a subject, comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of an FKHL7 therapeutic.

2. A method for determining whether a subject has or is at risk of developing a congenital heart disease, comprising measuring in the subject or in a sample obtained from the subject at least one FKHL7 activity, wherein a difference in the FKHL7 activity relative to the FKHL7 activity in a normal subject indicates that the subject is at risk of developing glaucoma.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein an FKHL7 activity is determined by measuring the protein level of an FKHL7 protein.

4. The method of claim 2, comprising determining whether the FKHL7 gene of the subject comprises a genetic alteration.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein determining whether a subject's FKHL7 gene comprises a genetic alteration, further comprises the steps of:

(a) contacting a nucleic acid comprising at least a portion of the FKHL7 gene from a subject with at least one nucleic acid probe capable of hybridizing with a wild-type FKHL7 gene; and

(b) detecting the formation of a hybrid between the portion of the FKHL7 gene from the subject and the at least one nucleic acid probe, wherein the absence of hybrid formation indicates that the subject's FKHL7 gene contains a genetic alteration.

6. A method for establishing an FKHL7 genetic population profile in a population of individuals having a congenital heart disease, comprising determining the FKHL7 genetic

profile of the individuals in the population and establishing a relationship between FKHL7 genetic profiles and specific characteristics of the individuals.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the specific characteristics of the individual include the response of an individual to an FKHL7 therapeutic.

8. A method for selecting the appropriate FKHL7 therapeutic to administer to an individual having a congenital heart disease, comprising determining the FKHL7 genetic profile of an individual and comparing the individual's FKHL7 genetic profile to an FKHL7 genetic population profile, to thereby select the appropriate FKHL7 therapeutic for administration to the individual.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein determining the FKHL7 genetic profile of an individual comprises determining the identity of a single nucleotide polymorphism.

10. A kit for determining whether a subject has or is likely to develop a congenital heart disease, comprising a probe or primer capable of hybridizing to an FKHL7 nucleic acid and instructions for use.